

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /080 W

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P R 271650Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2700

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL CAPTE TOWN

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

CONFIDENTIAL KINSHASA 4379

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG, PFOR, PO, AO

SUBJ: ZAIRE ORDERS CLOSURE OF PORTUGUESE DIPLOMATIC OFFICE

IN KINSHASA

1. IN ROUTINE CALL MAY 27 ON ANTONIO MONTEIRO (HEAD OF PORTUGUESE DIPLOMATIC OFFICE HERE) EMBOFF DISCOVERED THAT GOZ FONMIN BULA HAD SUMMONED MONTEIRO PREVIOUS DAY AND ORDERED HIM TO CLOSE HIS OFFICE AND DEPART WITHIN 24 HOURS. MONTEIRO AND FAMILY LEAVING TONIGHT (MAY 27).

2. MONTEIRO WAS RELUCTANT TO EXPLAIN IN ANY DETAIL, SAYING HE HAD NOT YET HAD TIME TO REPORT TO LISBON. NEVERTHELESS HE GAVE AT LEAST TOKEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS DESPITE OBVIOUS LACK OF SLEEP AND INTERRUPTIONS BY PACKERS. SCENARIO SEEMS TO HAVE GONE SOME-
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THING LIKE THIS. GOP AND GOZ HAVE BEEN APPROACHING CONFRONTATION

FOR SOME TIME. ANGOLAN POLICY, CABINDA, AND MOBUTU RECENT ATTACKS ON ROSA COUTINHO WERE AMONG POINTS AT ISSUE. FINALLY, GOZ POSED CERTAIN QUESTIONS WHICH GOP APPARENTLY CHOSE TO IGNORE. IN ABSENCE OF REPLY, MOBUTU ORDERED CLOSURE OF PORTUGUESE OFFICE. IN COMMUNICATING GOZ DECISION TO MONTEIRO, BULA TOLD HIM IT DID NOT MEAN BREAK IN RELATIONS. "DIALOGUE" WILL CONTINUE AT "ANOTHER" LEVEL. MONTEIRO SAID JOKINGLY THAT PERHAPS ZAIRIANS WERE THINKING IN TERMS OF ANOTHER SAL MEETING. IN ANY CASE, ZAIRIANS ASSURED HIM THAT DIALOGUE WOULD CONTINUE TO BE DIRECT AND NOT THROUGH INTERMEDIARIES. MONTEIRO SAID NO STEPS HAVE YET BEEN TAKEN TO FIND PROTECTING POWER FOR PORTUGUESE INTERESTS IN ZAIRE.

3. ASKED WHAT IT ALL MEANT, MONTEIRO SAID THAT, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE THOUGHT ZAIRE MAY BE PREPARING TO STEP UP ITS ALREADY ACTIVE INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA AND MAY EVEN MOVE MILITARILY AGAINST CABINDA. MOBUTU IS AWARE OF TROUBLES THIS COULD CAUSE HIM IN OAU, BUT INTERNAL REASONS, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL, AS WELL AS HIS OWN CONCEPTIONS OF ZAIRE'S RIGHT TO A SAY IN ANGOLA'S FUTURE, ARE IMPELLING HIM IN THIS DIRECTION. MONTEIRO SAID THAT IF ZAIRE DOES TRY NAKED INTERVENTION, IT KNOWS PORTUGAL WILL NOT STAND IDLY BY. HE SPECULATED THAT MOBUTU MIGHT HAVE DECIDED TO CLOSE HIM DOWN IN ORDER TO SIGNAL TO LISBON THAT GOZ MEANS BUSINESS.

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